City of Barrie
Report of the Seniors and Accessibility Advisory Committee

Monday, March 16, 2026 at 04:00 PM
For consideration by the Community Safety Committee

Present:
Councillor, N. Nigussie, Chair
G. Kavanagh
C. Kenwell
W. Krever
K. MacDonald
R. Meier
H. Platt
E. Saba

Absent:
W. Delo
R. Garvin

Staff:
Landscape Architectural Planner, W. Loevenmark
Legislative Coordinator, C. Payne
Strategic Project Coordinator and Executive Administrator to the CAO, A. Harrison

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Councillor, N. Nigussie at 4:00 p.m.

2. PRESENTATIONS

2.1 Presentation by Development Services regarding Parks Strategic Plan Community Engagement

Wendy Loevenmark, Landscape Architectural Planner, provided an overview of the Parks Strategic Plan Community Engagement process and advised that Development Services are looking for feedback from a seniors and accessibility perspective regarding the future of Barrie's parks. She encouraged the Committee to share what would be most valued in age-friendly parks and to identify any current service gaps or opportunities for improvement.

The Committee provided feedback on the following:

- A sufficient number of available washrooms at all parks regardless of classification;
- Benches or a seating area near parking lots for those with mobility challenges;
- New and existing Community Gardens should consider more accessible design (raised garden beds to reduce the amount of bending required, etc.). A community and/or donor model as opposed to the current allotment model could be beneficial;
- Accessibility considerations for transit stops nearest to parks, such as benches or covered shelter, wide pathways, etc.;
- Access to electricity and the ability to charge cell phones and/or mobility devices while at parks;
- Increased safety measures such as an alarm or call button system;
- Dog park locations should be more visible and integrated with the surrounding community to deter poor behaviour; and
- More way-finding, emergency information, and accessibility considerations included on park signage and features.

Ms. Loevenmark advised that an online survey will be available until March 22nd for any further comments.

Chair, N. Nigussie commented on the challenges in communicating the survey and other electronic information to seniors and those without access to email or the internet. Members recommended more print advertising, such as in the Allandale or Parkview 55+ Centre newsletters and suggested feedback and responses for future surveys could be collected via hard-copy or telephone.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Nil.

4. REFERRED ITEMS

Nil.

5. REPORTS/MEMORANDUMS TO COMMITTEE

Nil.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

CHAIRMAN